



► DIRECTION 2040
LRTP..... 1



► MATA TRANSIT PLAN
AIR QUALITY 2



► TRANSPORTATION BILL
TIGER IV GRANT..... 3



► MPO CALENDAR
ON THE MOVE..... 4

Travel times

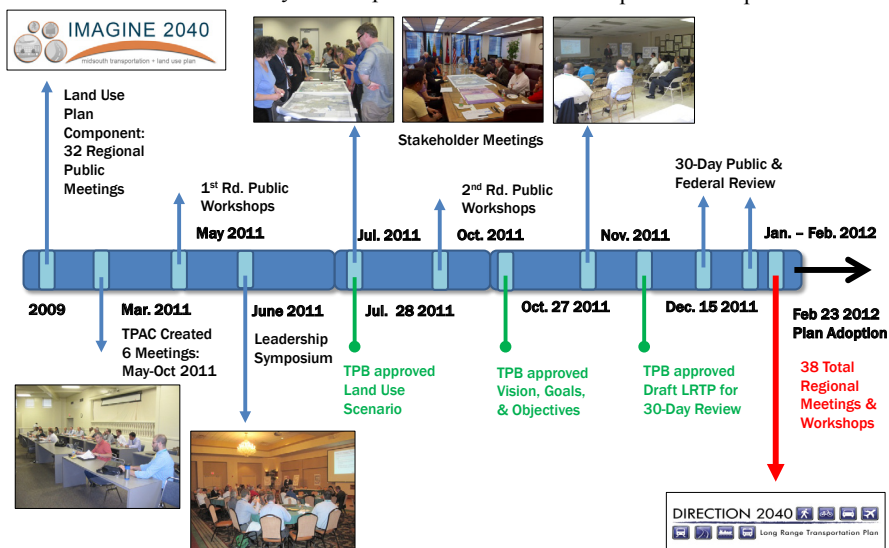
TO ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BALANCED, EFFICIENT, AND AFFORDABLE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE AND GOODS MOVING WITHIN AND THROUGH THE REGION, WHILE MINIMIZING THE EFFECTS OF TRANSPORTATION-RELATED AIR POLLUTION.

2040 LRTP..... Ready for Implementation *Regional + Multi-Modal Transportation Plan Adopted*

After almost a year of regional collaboration, public involvement, and research and analysis the Memphis MPO's Transportation Policy Board (TPB) approved the adoption of the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) on February 23, 2012.

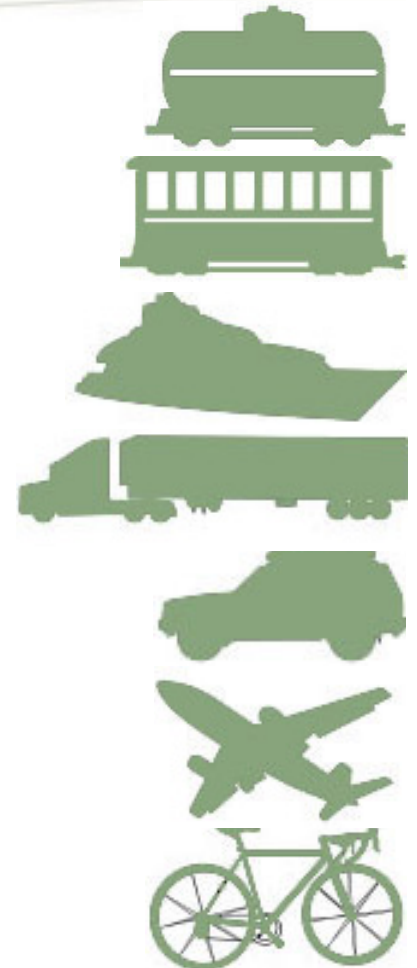
The LRTP is a regional and multi-modal planning document that will guide the expenditure of federal transportation funds for the next 20 years. The LRTP is federally required and must be updated at least once every four years and must address at least 20 years into the future for the duration of its four-year lifespan.

An extensive public involvement effort was taken throughout the development of the LRTP to gather input from citizens and public officials to help shape the future regional transportation system. A combined total of 70 stakeholder and public workshops were held throughout the 2040 LRTP update including 32 regional public meetings during Imagine 2040 and 38 meetings and workshops during the Direction 2040 process. The MPO would like to thank everyone who attended the public meetings and workshops, completed the public questionnaire, and reviewed the draft plan and provided comments.



The timeline shows the milestones for the development of Direction 2040 LRTP beginning with the regional visioning and scenario planning process, Imagine 2040. This timeline is included in the final Direction 2040 presentation which was presented to the TPB on February 23, 2012.

The full presentation can be viewed under the Presentations heading on the Memphis MPO webpage: www.memphismpo.org





Memphis Area Transit Authority

Short Range Transit Plan

Mission Statement: MATA's mission is to provide a reliable, safe, accessible, clean and customer-friendly public transportation system that meets the needs of the community.

The Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) with consultant, Nelson/Nygard are currently in the process of finalizing the recommendations and documentation for the Short Range Transit Plan. At the most recent public meetings, held in November, MATA presented three draft service scenarios, Grid, Transit Hubs & Centers, and Modified Network, all designed to improve public transportation in the Memphis area. The final plan recommendations selects Hubs & Centers as the preferred scenario and describes

the characteristics, benefits, projects, and implementation plan for the selected scenario.

Short Range Transit Plan Vision

MATA will provide efficient, effective, and innovative transit services. We will operate transit services that are logical and practical, and by doing so, we will attract an increasing number of customers to our services. In addition, MATA services will support regional goals of improving access to places where people live, work, and play; reducing dependence on fossil fuels; improving air quality; and strengthening the area's livability.

Unlike, the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan which looks 28 years into the future, the Short Range Transit Plan looks at the immediate needs of the region, with changes that could be

implemented over a five year period. A component of the initial stages of the implementation plan will be a public outreach campaign to educate riders about changes to service to accommodate the selected preferred scenario.

The preferred scenario, maps, and evaluations are available in the library section on the project website: www.mataplan.com.



THE ALLIANCE FOR BIKING AND WALKING'S 2012 BENCHMARKING REPORT

DID YOU KNOW?

- TN is ranked in the top 1/3 among states on adopted policies promoting bicycling and walking.
- The Memphis Area is ranked in the middle 1/3 among cities in funding, policy, education, and advocacy efforts.
- Since the 2010 Benchmarking Report the Memphis Area has published goals to increase walking and bicycling as well as decrease bicycle and pedestrian fatalities.



AIR QUALITY CORNER

Transportation Conformity is required under the Clean Air Act to ensure that Federally supported transportation plans are consistent with the State's air quality goals. Conformity requirements apply only in areas that do not meet or previously have not met the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establishes national standards for the concentration of pollutants in the air, if the air quality in the area meets or exceeds the national standards then it is an attainment area if it does not meet the standard then it is

a non-attainment area. Once an area meets the standard, then the EPA designates the area as a maintenance area. Federal regulations require the Memphis MPO to demonstrate that transportation plans will not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the NAAQS. If a project is in conformity, then all of these factors have been demonstrated. Conformity, within the Memphis MPO region is required for Ozone and Carbon Monoxide.

Ozone: Within the Memphis MPO region, Shelby County reached attainment for ozone in 2010 after being designated as a non-attainment area in 2004. Shelby County is currently in a 10 year maintenance period until 2021. The EPA is expected to lower the national standard for ozone

in the near future which could change the designation for Shelby County as well as potentially include Desoto County.

Carbon Monoxide (CO): After being designated a non-attainment area since 1978, Shelby County was re-designated in 1994, after improvements to air quality, as an attainment area for CO. The maintenance plan for Shelby County for CO ends in 2017.

The MPO will continue to track the progress of the EPA's national air quality standards and will provide updates to its MPO members.

Need a Refresher?



Federal Highway Administration has created a short course that is available on-line titled, *What is Conformity?*

Go to www.fhwa.dot.gov

Future Transportation Bill

Where We Are Now....

With the deadline of March 31st looming in the air, much of the talk has been if a new transportation bill will be in place after a series of eight short-term extensions. The House and Senate are continually working on their versions of the transportation bill showing more differences than similarities. The House version of the bill spans five years while the Senate version is a much shorter time-frame of two years. The House bill is proposed to spend about \$260 billion while the Senate bill is proposing \$109 billion in spending over the shorter time frame. There has also been much debate about the treatment of transit and bikeway and pedestrian programs in the House bill, eliminating a guaranteed portion of funding to go towards these types of projects.

One thing is for certain with both versions of the bill and that is question of where the additional revenue is going to come from to fund the bill. Lawmakers do not want to raise the federal gas tax which is one alternative to helping to fund the bill. The current federal gas tax is 18.4 cents per gallon and it would need to be raised to 24.4 cents per gallon to make up for the shortfall. The 6 cent federal gas tax raise amounts to \$95 per car annually, but most lawmakers among others agree that due to the current state of the economy, this is not a good time to raise the tax. Other alternatives for revenue include oil and gas drilling, which is proposed in the House bill.

Without a transportation bill in place there is only speculation on what this could mean for the states of Tennessee and Mississippi. There is a good chance that the bill Congress passes will cut back on federal funding for highways in TN and MS, impacting construction for projects that rely on federal dollars. Figures published by *Transportation Weekly*, under the current version of the House bill, would give TN \$818 million for the rest of FY 2012 which is a drop of about \$59 million from FY 2011 or 6.7 percent. The Senate's version of the bill would provide TN with a slightly higher amount of federal dollars, sending \$853 million to TN in FY 2012 and \$867 million the following year. A similar reduction for federal funding in MS is projected as well with the House bill giving MS \$468 million in FY 2012 which is also a drop of 6.7 percent and the Senate bill giving MS \$517 million in FY 2012.

There has been discussion that in exchange for federal funding cuts for transportation projects, considerations may be given to allow the states more control over the highway money and to speed up construction projects, both of which would be beneficial for TN and MS. As the March 31st deadline approaches quickly we must continue to wait and anticipate what the future outcomes will be. The MPO will continue to track the progress of the transportation bill and provide updates to its MPO Members.

MPO PROJECTS/ TASKS:



UPWP, Unified Planning
Work Program 2013-2014

MPO Boundary Update

2040 LRTP, Performance
Measures

TIP, Transportation
Improvement Program
2011-2014

MPO Non-Attainment
Designation

Prospectus/By-Laws Update

Southern Gateway Project

TIGER IV DISCRETIONARY GRANT

On January 31, 2012, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced the availability of funding for the Fiscal Year 2012 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants program. This fourth round of TIGER grants will award \$500 million for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure. This round of funding will bring the total of the TIGER program, which was first created through the 2009 Recovery Act, to just over \$3 billion.

According to the DOT's website, as with previous rounds of TIGER, funds for the

FY TIGER program are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. The applications for funding will be evaluated on criteria including job creation, economic competitiveness, livability, and the project's contribution to a state of good repair. The evaluation will also consider a cost-benefit analysis of each project.

Of the \$500 million total, at least \$120 million will be awarded to rural areas, and up to \$100 million will be made available for inter-city or high-speed passenger rail

projects. A minimum non-federal match of 20% is required for urban projects; however, as in previous TIGER rounds, a 50% minimum match is expected for a project to be considered competitive.

The pre-application deadline for FY 2012 TIGER grants was February 20, 2012, and **final applications are due to the DOT by close of business on March 19, 2012.** Funds awarded for projects must be obligated by September 30, 2013.

More information on the
TIGER IV Discretionary
Grant program can be found on
the US DOT website:
www.dot.gov



Memphis MPO Calendar

MARCH - MAY 2012

It is the policy of the Memphis MPO to provide an active and representative forum for all segments of the Metropolitan Planning Area, MPA in the development of common regional transportation goals, alternatives, and plans. The Public Participation Plan (PPP) of the Memphis MPO serves as a guide to undertake this task. In accordance with the PPP, below are the dates for the upcoming MPO meetings.

MPO STAFF

Pragati Srivastava

Administrator

pragati.srivastava@memphistn.gov
901.576.7190

Sajid Hossain

Transportation Planner

sajid.hossain@memphistn.gov
901.576.7183

Carlos McCloud

Transportation Planner

carlos.mccloud@memphistn.gov
901.576.7156

Dan Frazier

Transportation Planner

dan.frazier@memphistn.gov
901.576.7218

John Paul Shaffer

Transportation Planner

john.shaffer@memphistn.gov
901.576.7130

Kate Hendrix

RPO Coordinator

kate.hendrix@memphistn.gov
901.576.7216

Kyle Wagenschutz

Bike Pedestrian Coordinator

kyle.wagenschutz@memphistn.gov
901.576.6918

Notimba Brooks

Grants Coordinator

notimba.brooks@memphistn.gov
901.576.7227

Linda Lawrence

Administrative Tech


linda.lawrence@memphistn.gov
901.576.7229

Ann Deberry

Administrative Assistant

ann.deberry@memphistn.gov
901.576.7190

March							April							May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

 Transportation Policy Board (TPB)

 Engineering & Technical Committee (ETC)

 Holiday

*Reference the *Calendar of Events* on MPO's Website, www.memphismpo.org for meeting times and locations.

MPO Planners on the Move

Quarterly Education, Outreach, and Events

The Memphis MPO participated in the following activities during the last quarter Dec. 2011 - Feb. 2012.

December - 2011

Dec. 1 - Memphis MPO ETC Meeting
Dec. 5 - MATA Exec. Board Meeting
Dec. 6 - Planning for Operations Webinar
Dec. 7 - Bike/Ped Public Meeting
Dec. 12 - Bike/Ped Review Period Ends
Dec. 13 - Annual CMAQ Report Submitted
Dec. 15 - Memphis MPO TPB Meeting
Dec. 15 - Bike/Ped Plan Adopted
Dec. 15 - Public Participation Plan Adopted

January - 2012

Jan. 9 - Two Wheeled Talking Tour, Frayser
Jan. 9-10 - ARC GIS Desktop III Training
Jan. 10 - FHWA Climate Change Webinar
Jan. 17 - Southern Gateway Team Meeting
Jan. 17 - LRTP Public Review Period Begins
Jan. 19 - Pictometry Training
Jan. 20 - APA Social Media Strategies Webinar
Jan. 23 - MATA Exec. Board Meeting
Jan. 25 - Two Wheeled Talking Tour, Evergreen
Historic Neighborhood Association

February - 2012

Feb. 7 - FHWA Livability/Mgmt Webinar
Feb. 9 - West Memphis MPO Meeting
Feb. 9 - Two Wheeled Talking Tour, South Memphis
Feb. 17 - LRTP Public Review Period Ends
Feb. 23 - Memphis MPO ETC Meeting
Feb. 23 - Memphis MPO TPB Meeting
Feb. 23 - LRTP Adopted
Feb. 27 - MATA Exec. Board Meeting
Feb. 29 - ITS Architecture Webinar



Kyle Wagenschutz, Bike/Ped Coordinator talks with citizens at a Public Meeting.

CONTACT INFORMATION

125 N. Main Street
Suite 450
Memphis, TN 38103
901.576.7190 (phone)
901.576.7272 (fax)
www.memphismpo.org

